

[12th March 1960]

*Sales tax on hides and skins*

\* 322 Q.—SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the High Court judgment regarding the levy of sales tax on skins and hides; and

(b) if so, whether skins and hides trade has been exempted from levy of sales tax?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to the judgment of the Madras High Court, dated 1st October 1959 in W.P. Nos. 14, 15, 20, etc., of 1958, in which the High Court has struck down rules 15 and 16 of the Madras General Sales Tax (Turnover and Assessment) Rules, 1939 as invalid. The judgment has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) The Government have decided that it is necessary to validate the rules referred to. They have accordingly introduced a Bill in this House for the purpose. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to L.A. Bill No. 24 of 1959 introduced in this House on 8th December 1959 and passed by the House on 15th December 1959. The question of exempting the dealers in hides and skins does not, therefore, arise.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Government at least consider the question of reducing the rate of levy of sales tax on hides and skins to give more incentive to exports?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, that is a different question.

*Buckingham Canal*

\* 323 Q.—SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether any research work was undertaken by the Poondy Irrigation Research Centre to devise ways and means to keep the Buckingham Canal open towards the sea at Madras; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : (a) & (b) No research work has been done by the Irrigation Research Station, Poondi, to devise ways and means to keep the Buckingham Canal open towards the sea; but studies are being conducted in the Research Station to keep the mouth of that portion of the Cooum river in the Madras City (which links the North and South Buckingham Canals) open towards the sea.

SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : ஸார், இவர்கள் ஆராய்ச்சி (ஸ்டடி செய்து) செய்ததின் முடிவு என்ன? முடிவு ஏற்படவில்லையென்றால் இப்போது எந்த நிலையில் இருக்கிறது?